

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 26-34 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 8-25 are presently before the Examiner for prosecution.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 8, 9, 15, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Related Prior Art as shown in Fig. 1 and pages 1-3 of the instant specification in view of either U.S. Patent No. 4,289,265 to Ellerbrock or U.S. Patent No. 2,640,524 to Carpenter.

Claims 10-14 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,568,284 to Harrison or U.S. Patent No. 2,819,007 to Bergstrom.

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,846 to Watson.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21, 22 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 15, canceled claim 21 and amended claims 16 and 19 to depend from claim 8.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections raised by the Examiner based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Independent claim 8 has been amended herein to include the limitation of claim 21 which has been determined to contain allowable subject matter. Hence, amended claim 8 is now in allowable condition. Claims 9-14 and 16-25 now depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 8 and are also in condition for allowance because of their dependency on an allowable base claim.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define over the cited prior art by adding the following technical features: (1) a welding wire container is formed of paper; (2) an upper protrusion is integrally formed with an outer shell; and (3) an upper fixture is formed as an integral and endless ring structure. The present invention as

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defined in amended claim 15 is now directed to a welding wire container formed of paper and having the upper protrusion (220) integrally formed with the outer shell (100) and enlarged in diameter beyond the outer shell (110) for structurally reinforcing an upper outer portion of the outer shell (110); and an upper fixture (230) formed as an integral and endless ring structure. By providing the welding wire container in which an outer shell, an inner shell, a base plate and upper and lower fixtures are made of paper, the container is readily discarded after exhaustion and is readily coupled and disassembled.

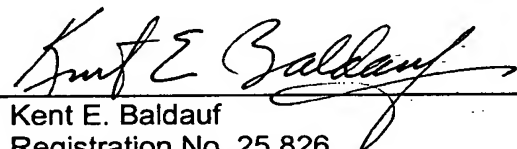
The cited prior art, on the other hand, discloses an upper seam-welded steel fixture (130a) formed to wrap the outer periphery of an outer shell (110). Ellerbrock and Carpenter do not teach or suggest any construction similar to the claimed upper protrusion (220) of the present invention. Furthermore, the Related Prior Art discloses a ring member (160) having a clamp (162) for fixing both ends thereof, and Carpenter teaches the construction of fixing the lower portion of a container using pairs of apertures (29, 30) and a staple (28).

Therefore, the inventions of independent claims 8 and 15 are distinct from the cited Related Prior Art even in view of Ellerbrock and Carpenter.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 8-20 and 22-25 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By


Kent E. Baldauf
Registration No. 25,826
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094